

Collectively, the Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 missions over North Africa and Europe during World War II, destroying more than 250 enemy aircraft on the ground and 150 in the air. By historic accounts, the aviators never lost a bomber to enemy aircraft fire during their escort missions. Proudly, Walter Palmer personally helped to set that very high standard of excellence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KA'U COAST PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Ka'u Coast Preservation Act, a bill directing the National Park Service to assess the feasibility of designating coastal lands on the Ka'u Coast of the island of Hawaii between Kapao'o Point and Kahuku Point as a unit of the National Park System.

Late last year, the National Park Service issued a reconnaissance report that made a preliminary assessment of whether the Ka'u Coast would meet the National Park Service's demanding criteria as a resource of national significance.

The reconnaissance survey concluded that "based upon the significance of the resources in the study area, and the current integrity and intact condition of these resources, a preliminary finding of national significance and suitability can be concluded." The report goes on to recommend that Congress proceed with a full resource study of the area.

Although under significant development pressure, the coastline of Ka'u is still largely unspoiled. The study area contains significant natural, geological, and archaeological features. The northern part of the study area is adjacent to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and contains a number of noteworthy geological features, including an ancient lava tube known as the Great Crack, which the National Park Service has expressed interest in acquiring in the past.

The study area includes both black and green sand beaches as well as a significant number of endangered and threatened species, most notably the endangered hawksbill turtle (at least half of the Hawaiian population of this rare sea turtle nests within the study area), the threatened green sea turtle, the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered Hawaiian hawk, native bees, the endangered and very rare Hawaiian orangeblack damselfly (the largest population in the state), and a number of native endemic birds. Humpback whales and spinner dolphins also frequent the area. The Ka'u Coast also boasts some of the best remaining examples of native coastal vegetation in Hawaii.

The archaeological resources related to ancient Hawaiian settlements within the study area are also very impressive. These include dwelling complexes, heiau (religious shrines), walls, fishing and canoe houses or sheds, burial sites, petroglyphs, water and salt collection sites, caves, and trails. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the study area.

The Ka'u Coast is a truly remarkable area: its combination of natural, archaeological, cul-

tural, and recreational resources, as well as its spectacular views, are an important part of Hawaii's and our Nation's natural and cultural heritage. I believe a full feasibility study, which was recommended in the reconnaissance survey, will confirm that the area meets the National Park Service high standards as an area of national significance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

STEWART VINCENT WOLFE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of my constituents in Yuma to revitalize and beautify their surroundings.

The community came together to create the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Memorial Playground located in the Yuma West Wetlands Regional Park. This is a true community project as it was created from the input of over 5,000 local schoolchildren. This project united all generations to create it and was fully assembled by dedicated volunteers throughout two week-ends in February.

I have heard from many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and educators that the children have approved thoroughly of the park. And today I rise to thank the community for the park and provide my heartfelt approval and gratitude as well.

This park has an important role in Yuma, as it is a culmination of work from all aspects of the community. It also served as an educational tool. Bringing in the children to have input was an opportunity for the children to learn about planning in our community, in addition to preservation of open and friendly spaces.

There was much sweat and hard work that was put into the park, and I guarantee there will be many squeals of joy and happy families for years to come.

This important achievement will long be remembered in Yuma, and it is with pride that I celebrate with my constituents in the realization of this important park.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE FIRST USE OF THE NAME "AMERICA"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution celebrating the 500th anniversary of the first use of the name "America." I am pleased to be introducing this resolution with my good friend from New York, Representative CAROLYN MALONEY.

Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci was born in 1454 and traveled across the Atlantic Ocean 4 times between 1497 and 1504. During his second voyage to the Western Hemi-

sphere in 1499, he realized the land initially discovered by Christopher Columbus was not India, but in fact a whole new continent.

Eight years later, on April 25, 1507, cartographer Martin Waldseemüller, a member of the research group Gymnasium Vosagense in Saint-Die', France, published the book *Cosmographiae Introductio*. The book was accompanied by a map he designed naming the new continent "America" after Amerigo Vespucci. Incidentally, the only remaining copy of this map is housed in the Library of Congress.

Naming the new continent after Vespucci was a unique and high honor, especially since he was still alive at the time. But Waldseemüller described this decision in the book by writing: "I see no reason why anyone should justly object to calling this part . . . America, after Amerigo [Vespucci], its discoverer, a man of great ability."

On April 25, 2007, we will mark the 500th anniversary of the first appearance of the word "America" on a map on a continent bordered by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. As such, it is fitting that the House take time to honor Amerigo Vespucci, Martin Waldseemüller, and the contributions of so many others who have made us who we are.

In the 21st century, the term "America" means much more than just a continent or a country. It is an ideal, a system of values which dedicates itself to ingenuity and greatness. The ability of which Waldseemüller wrote of Vespucci embodies the American spirit and the role which we play in the world. Indeed, we have the ability to make this world a better place for all.

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will support this effort and join me and Representative MALONEY in honoring these two great individuals, the history of our great country and the continent on which it is located. I ask for the support of my colleagues and the swift consideration of this resolution to ensure that the House marks this celebration before the 500th anniversary.

INDENTURED SERVITUDE ABOLITION ACT OF 2007

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, thousands of foreign workers in this country are being systematically exploited and abused every day. I am introducing the Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2007 to ensure that these workers have basic human rights protections and safeguards against recruitment abuses.

The Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2007 requires that employers provide in writing and in advance of employment, specific information relating to an individual's working terms and conditions so that workers know the length of their employment, where they will be working and living, how much they will be paid, and what benefits will be made available to them. Under the Act employers will be prohibited from charging the worker a recruitment fee, and obligated to pay the worker's transportation costs. Finally, if an employer or recruiter violates the Act, they will be subject to criminal sanctions, civil penalties and injunctive relief.

Unscrupulous employers in this country are luring unskilled foreign workers with the promise of riches—that they can earn 10 times as much or more if they come to work in America. The foreign workers, most of whom come from impoverished backgrounds, are charged fees—sometimes thousands of dollars—to secure these jobs. To cover the upfront expenses many sell their land, their homes, or take out high interest loans. They risk everything with the dream of earning enough money to provide for a better life for themselves and their families.

The reality for these workers stands in stark contrast to the riches and opportunity that was promised. Employers often refuse to pay the workers overtime or alternatively refuse to schedule them for full-time work. They work in unsafe conditions, and are forced to live in squalor. Living in fear and with no ability to speak out about the abuses, workers are trapped in virtual involuntary servitude under sweatshop working conditions, indebted by usurious recruitment fees, paid inadequate wages and too often cheated out of what little they are owed.

The Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2007 simply demands that these foreign workers be treated with the respect and dignity that they deserve. The Act requires that the working conditions promised are in fact the working conditions that will exist. We can no longer allow employers to treat foreign workers as commodities—we have a responsibility to ensure that every individual working and living in this country is afforded labor protections and adequate legal safeguards.

NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID ACT OF 2007

HON. LAMAR SMITH
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT in introducing the "Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2007."

Beginning in the mid-1950s, a number of private colleges and universities agreed to award financial aid solely on the basis of demonstrated need. These schools also agreed to use common criteria to assess each student's financial need and to give the same financial aid award to students admitted to more than one member of that group of schools. From the 1950s to the late 1980s, the practice continued uncontested.

In 1989, the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice brought suit against 9 of the colleges that engaged in this practice. After extensive litigation, the parties entered into a consent decree in 1991 that all but ended the practice. In 1992, Congress passed the first exemption to the antitrust laws for these colleges as part of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992. That temporary exemption codified the settlement and allowed agreements to provide aid on the basis of need only, to use common criteria, to use a common financial aid application form, and to allow the exchange of students' financial information through a third party. It also prohibited agreements on awards to specific students.

In 1994, Congress extended this exemption as part of the Improving America's Schools Act. Congress has extended the exemption twice since 1994—in 1997 and 2001. As of May 2006, twenty-eight schools utilized this antitrust exemption. This exemption expires on September 30, 2008.

I believe the current exemption makes sense, and to my knowledge there have been no complaints about it. A recent GAO study of the exemption found there has been no abuse of the exemption and stated that there has not been an increase in the price of college as a result of the exemption. The Antitrust Modernization Commission, which is due to release its final report next week, studied this exemption and found that it provides "limited immunity for limited conduct," that is, it is narrowly tailored to meet its goals of promoting access to need-based financial aid.

This bill would make the exemption passed in 1992, 1994, 1997, and 2001 permanent. It would not make any change to the substance of the exemption.

The need-based financial aid system serves worthy goals that the antitrust laws do not adequately address, namely, making financial aid available to the broadest number of students solely on the basis of demonstrated need. No student who is otherwise qualified should be denied the opportunity to go to one of these schools because of the limited financial means of his or her family. This bill helps protect need-based aid and need-blind admissions.

The last time a permanent extension of this antitrust exemption was considered by the House it passed by a vote of 414 to 0. I urge my colleagues to support this bill as well.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO RE-AUTHORIZE THE NEW JERSEY COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL ROUTE

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail incorporates the very best of what the great State of New Jersey has to offer the rest of the Nation. Established by Congress in 1988, the Trail unifies New Jersey's many scenic points of interest. These points of interest include a wealth of environmental, historic, maritime and recreational sights found along New Jersey's coastline, stretching 300 miles from Perth Amboy in the north, Cape May in the extreme southern tip of the State and Deepwater to the west.

The Trail's area includes three National Wildlife Refuges, four tributaries of a Wild and Scenic River system, a Civil War fort and National cemetery, several lighthouses, historic homes, and other sites tied to southern New Jersey's maritime history. Through a network of themes and destinations, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail connects people with places of historic, recreational, environmental and maritime interest.

One exciting aspect of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route is its focus on maritime history. There is a rich story to be told about the industries once sustained by the

Delaware Bay, such as whaling, shipbuilding, oystering and crabbing. While we often define our Nation's history through military or political milestones, the Trail will serve to remind visitors that maritime-dependent commerce was a major factor in the growth of the United States.

"Eco-tourism" along the Coastal Heritage Trail has proven to be a huge success. There is an abundant variety of natural habitats and species to be found on the Trail. Whale and dolphin watching have become extremely popular, and bird lovers from throughout the country, and in fact around the world, are realizing what Southern New Jersey residents have known all along: our region is unmatched for observing migratory birds, ospreys and bald eagles.

Today, with the support of the entire New Jersey delegation, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route. This legislation would extend the authorization of the Trail to provide additional funding over 4 years to continue the work began in 1988.

The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail has helped New Jersey residents develop pride, awareness, experience with, and understanding of our coastal resources and its history. This reauthorization will allow the Trail to continue and flourish.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAYOR GEORGE H. WHITEHURST

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the public service and outstanding achievements of George H. Whitehurst upon his retirement as Mayor of the city of Crestview, Florida.

George Whitehurst moved to Crestview in 1954, where shortly after, he opened the Whitehurst Funeral Home. In 1961, he entered the political arena as Mayor for 12 years. His passion for leadership and continuing love for the community led Mr. Whitehurst to resume his political career as Mayor in 1995.

During his tenure as Mayor, George Whitehurst advocated for increased public safety and economic development. To promote safety and deter crime, Mr. Whitehurst was at the forefront of instituting 2 police substations and a police/fire sub-station. He lobbied for the acceleration of a high rise security lighting installation at Interstate 10 and State Road 85 and the development of an emergency transportation corridor, consisting of a three-mile segment of roadway to provide an alternate emergency evacuation route in times of natural disaster. Under his leadership, a cemetery was restored, a Veterans Memorial Park constructed, and the foundation for the Crestview Library and Community Center established. Mayor Whitehurst launched a downtown revitalization effort, including: new sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks, shade trees, increased parking, period street lighting, and park benches. There is no doubt in my mind that Crestview is better off because of this man.